



Northeast Ohio Hispanic Chamber Of Commerce
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Federal Communications Commission
c/o Marlene Dortch, Secretary
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

May 16, 2011

WT 11-65: In the Matter of applications of AT&T Inc. and Deutsche Telekom AG for consent to assign or Transfer Control of licenses and Authorizations

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners:

When considering the AT&T and T-Mobile merger, many numbers have been thrown around: 97% of the country covered, an additional \$8 billion in investments, an 55 million American more to receive access. Equally as important is what this means for the number of Latino Americans that use the internet primarily on their mobile devices for both personal and professional use. While we lag behind in wired broadband access in our homes, we are able to lessen the digital divide on these mobile devices. But unfortunately, America as a whole will be facing a broadband crisis if this merger is not approved.

Many Americans, including myself, take for granted that when we want to send a text message or look up directions on our phone we will be able to. But, not all areas of the country have access to wireless broadband, and studies have shown that the current wireless infrastructure will not be able to support increased customer usage of these devices. As the executive director of the Northeast Ohio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, I have taken the time to study the potential positive impacts of this merger, as well as the negative ramifications if it is not approved.

Considering that a majority of Latino internet access is through mobile devices, a deficient broadband service would impact their ability to communicate with friends, search for businesses, contact customers, and follow news and social media. When you diminish their ability to perform these functions, which will happen if the AT&T/T-Mobile merger does not occur, you diminish the innovative and economic capabilities of the Latino American community.

I urge you to act to approve this merger, which provides a viable solution to suit the technological needs of the Latino community. We have so much to offer and many customers who are seeking the types of businesses we provide. American Latinos look forward to hearing your decision on this merger.

Best,

Stephanie Mercado, Executive Director, Northeast Ohio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

CC:

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Robert McDowell